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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
KATSUSHI FUJII, ET AL. : EXAMINER: HUYNH, B.
SERIAL NO: 10/067,350 :
FILED: FEBRUARY 7, 2002 : GROUP ART UNIT: 2179
FOR: INFORMATION PROCESSING :
APPARATUS, INFORMATION
PROCESSING METHOD, RECORDING
MEDIUM, AND PROGRAM

APPEAL BRIEF

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

This is an appeal from the decision of the Examiner dated July 17, 2008 which finally rejected Claims 1-8 in the above-identified patent application. A Notice of Appeal is timely filed herewith.

I. REAL PARTY-IN-INTEREST

The real party-in-interest is Sony Corporation.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/067,304 is also under appeal and includes similar issues as the present appeal.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-8 have been finally rejected and form the basis for this appeal. Appendix VIII includes a clean copy of Claims 1-8.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

No amendment after final rejection has been filed.

V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

Independent Claim 1 is directed to an information processing apparatus managing a first service of distributing contents of a first terminal in real time according to a reservation made in advance by the first terminal, and, to second and third terminal requesting the use of the first service and the use of a second service of providing a chat space. The apparatus includes an acquiring unit, a reservation information providing unit, a generation unit, and authenticating unit, and the providing unit. The acquiring unit is configured to acquire reservation information, sent by the first terminal, to the information processing apparatus from a reservation data base in order to provide the first service to the second and third terminals. (Live casting server 7, page 25, line 1 to page 27, line 21 and Figure 10.) The reservation information providing unit is configured to provide to the second and third terminals information including shared authentication data, a description of the first service, scheduling information and hyperlink data of a webpage of a user of the first terminal. (Live casting server 7, page 38, line 12 to page 39, line 6 and Figure 21.) The generation unit is configured to generate the chat space corresponding to the reservation at a predetermined time prior to a distribution start time designated by the reservation. (Communication server 6, page 9, lines 20-25.) The authenticating unit is configured to authenticate the second and third terminals by the use of the shared authentication data, the shared authentication data

being the same for both the second and third terminals. (Communication server 6, page 13, lines 16-20.) The providing unit is configured to provide the second service of the chat space to the first terminal, and the second service of the chat space and the first service to the second and third terminals designated to be distributed by the first terminal, the second service of the chat space and the first service being provided to the second and third terminals simultaneously upon authentication, via actuation of the hyperlink in accordance with the scheduling information of the distribution notice, the providing unit delivering simultaneous access to the second service of the chat space and the first service upon authentication of the shared authentication data at the information processing apparatus. (Communication server 6, page 38, line 16 to page 41, line 10.)

Independent Claims 4-6 are directed to a method and a recording medium and a computer readable carrier for practicing this method. The method includes acquiring reservation information, sent by the first terminal, to the information processing apparatus from a reservation data base in order to provide the first service to the second and third terminals (Live casting server 7, page 25, line 1 to page 27, line 21 and Figure 10.); providing information to the second and third terminals including shared authentication data, a description of the first service, scheduling information and hyperlink data of a webpage of a user of the first terminal (Live casting server 7, page 38, line 12 to page 39, line 6 and Figure 21.); generating the chat space corresponding to the reservation at a predetermined time prior to a distribution start time designated by the reservation (Communication server 6, page 9, lines 20-25.); authenticating the terminal by the use of the shared authentication data used by the server, the shared authentication data being the same for both the second and third terminals (Communication server 6, page 13, lines 16-20.); and providing the chat space to the first terminal, and the second service of the chat space and the first service to the second and third terminals designated to be distributed by the first terminal, the second service of the

chat space and the first service being provided to the second and third terminals simultaneously upon authentication, via actuation of the hyperlink in accordance with the scheduling information of the distribution notice, the providing unit delivering simultaneous access to the second service of the chat space and the first service upon authentication of the shared authentication data at the information processing apparatus (Communication server 6, page 38, line 16 to page 41, line 10.).

VI. GROUND OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

The grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal are

(a) whether Claims 1-8 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Dworkin (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20020071540) in view of Dailey et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,363,352, hereinafter “Dailey”).

It is noted that the outstanding Office Action stated that Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Dworkin in view of Dailey. However, Claims 7 and 8 are addressed with respect to these two references on page 6 of the outstanding Office Action.

VII. ARGUMENTS

A. Claims 1-8 are not unpatentable over Dworkin in view of Dailey

Amended Claim 1 recites in part “a reservation information providing unit configured to provide to the second and third terminals information including shared authentication data, a description of the first service, scheduling information and *hyperlink data of a webpage of a user of the first terminal.*”

Dworkin describes an application service provider (ASP) for providing a conferencing environment.¹ The outstanding Office Action cited paragraphs 2-8 (in particular paragraph 7)

¹See Dworkin, abstract.

and 15-19 of Dworkin, and column 2 lines 26-29 and column 3 lines 37-60 of Dailey as describing “hyperlink data of a webpage of a user of the first terminal” as recited in Claim 1.² With regard to Dworkin, paragraph 7 of Dworkin describes that the ASP can provide a web-based interface for providing a conferencing environment. In this regard, users 100 invited to join a conference are provided with the website *of the ASP*. Nowhere does Dworkin describe that any user is provided with any website of another user, much less the user who reserved the conference. In this regard, paragraph 26 of Dworkin describes that the purchaser of conference room time may identify the following at the time of purchase: the video chat room name and size, password, bandwidth, environment, and video and sound quality of the conference. A website of the purchaser is not included in the list. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Dworkin does not describe a reservation information providing unit configured to provide information including *hyperlink data of a webpage of a user of the first terminal*. At most, paragraph 28 of Dworkin describes that a website of the *ASP*, not either of the users 106, 108, is provided to a customer.

With respect to Dailey, column 2, lines 26-29 describes the meeting host’s network address, which is an identification number of a meeting host’s computer, not a hyperlink. Column 3, lines 37-60 describe of an e-mail address or network address to identify a host’s computer so that a connection between a meeting participant’s computer and a meeting host’s computer can be made. Again, an e-mail address and a network address are both not a hyperlink. Finally, it is respectfully submitted that no other portion of Dailey teaches or suggests a reservation information providing unit configured to provide information including *hyperlink data of a webpage of a user of the first terminal* either.

Consequently, Claim 1 (and Claims 2, 3, 7, and 8 dependent therefrom) is patentable over Dworkin in view of Dailey.

²See the outstanding Office Action at page 3, lines 5 and 6 and page 6, lines 18-21.

Claims 4-6 recite in part “*providing information* to the second and third terminals *including* shared authentication data, a description of the first service, scheduling information and *hyperlink data of a webpage of a user of the first terminal.*”

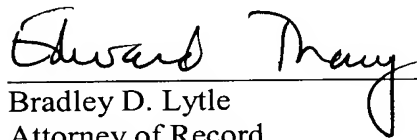
As noted above, Dworkin only describes providing a website of the *ASP*, not of the users 106, 108. Further, Dailey only describes providing e-mail address or network address of a host computer, *not* a hyperlink. Consequently, Claims 4-6 are also patentable over Dworkin in view of Dailey.

Conclusion

It is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejections be REVERSED.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Bradley D. Lytle
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 40,073

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/07)

Edward W. Tracy, Jr.
Registration No. 47,998

VIII. CLAIMS APPENDIX

Claim 1: An information processing apparatus managing a first service of distributing contents of a first terminal in real time according to a reservation made in advance by the first terminal, and, to second and third terminal requesting the use of the first service and the use of a second service of providing a chat space, comprising:

an acquiring unit configured to acquire reservation information, sent by the first terminal, to the information processing apparatus from a reservation data base in order to provide the first service to the second and third terminals;

a reservation information providing unit configured to provide to the second and third terminals information including shared authentication data, a description of the first service, scheduling information and hyperlink data of a webpage of a user of the first terminal;

a generation unit configured to generate the chat space corresponding to the reservation at a predetermined time prior to a distribution start time designated by the reservation; and

an authenticating unit to authenticate the second and third terminals by the use of the shared authentication data, the shared authentication data being the same for both the second and third terminals;

a providing unit configured to provide the second service of the chat space to the first terminal, and the second service of the chat space and the first service to the second and third terminals designated to be distributed by the first terminal, the second service of the chat space and the first service being provided to the second and third terminals simultaneously upon authentication, via actuation of the hyperlink in accordance with the scheduling information of the distribution notice, the providing unit delivering simultaneous access to the second service of the chat space and the first service upon authentication of the shared authentication data at the information processing apparatus.

Claim 2: An information processing apparatus according to Claim 1,
wherein the first service is a service for distributing contents sent according to a reservation made in advance, to the second and third terminals in real time.

Claim 3: An information processing apparatus according to Claim 1,
wherein the first service is a service for providing the second and third terminals with a chat space corresponding to a reservation made in advance for distributing contents in real time.

Claim 4: An information processing method for an information processing apparatus managing a first service of distributing contents of a first terminal in real time according to a reservation made in advance by the first terminal, and, to second and third terminals requesting the use of the first service and the use of a second service of providing a chat space, comprising:

acquiring reservation information, sent by the first terminal, to the information processing apparatus from a reservation data base in order to provide the first service to the second and third terminals;

providing information to the second and third terminals including shared authentication data, a description of the first service, scheduling information and hyperlink data of a webpage of a user of the first terminal;

generating the chat space corresponding to the reservation at a predetermined time prior to a distribution start time designated by the reservation;

authenticating the terminal by the use of the shared authentication data used by the server, the shared authentication data being the same for both the second and third terminals;

and

providing the chat space to the first terminal, and the second service of the chat space and the first service to the second and third terminals designated to be distributed by the first terminal, the second service of the chat space and the first service being provided to the second and third terminals simultaneously upon authentication, via actuation of the hyperlink in accordance with the scheduling information of the distribution notice, the providing unit delivering simultaneous access to the second service of the chat space and the first service upon authentication of the shared authentication data at the information processing apparatus.

Claim 5: A recording medium storing a computer-readable program for an information processing apparatus managing a first service of distributing contents of a first terminal in real time according to a reservation made in advance by the first terminal, and, to a second and third terminals requesting the use of the first service and the use of a second service of providing a chat space, comprising:

acquiring reservation information, sent by the first terminal, to the information processing apparatus from a reservation data base in order to provide the first service to the second and third terminals;

providing information to the second and third terminals including shared authentication data, a description of the first service, scheduling information and hyperlink data of a webpage of a user of the first terminal;

generating the chat space corresponding to the reservation at a predetermined time prior to a distribution start time designated by the reservation; and

authenticating the terminal by the use of the shared authentication data used by the server, the shared authentication data being the same for both the second and third terminals;

providing the chat space to the first terminal, and the second service of the chat space

and the first service to the second service of the second and third terminals designated to be distributed by the first terminal, the second service of the chat space and the first service being provided to the second and third terminals simultaneously upon authentication, via actuation of the hyperlink in accordance with the scheduling information of the distribution notice, the providing unit delivering simultaneous access to the second service of the chat space and the first service upon authentication of the shared authentication data at the information processing apparatus.

Claim 6: A computer readable carrier including computer program instructions to cause a computer to implement a method of managing a first service of distributing contents of a first terminal in real time according to a reservation made in advance by the first terminal, and, to a second and third terminals requesting the use of the first service and the use of a second service of providing a chat space, comprising:

acquiring reservation information, sent by the first terminal, to the information processing apparatus from a reservation data base in order to provide the first service to the second and third terminals;

providing information to the second and third terminals including shared authentication data, a description of the first service, scheduling information and hyperlink data of a webpage of a user of the first terminal;

generating the chat space corresponding to the reservation at a predetermined time prior to a distribution start time designated by the reservation; and

authenticating the terminal by the use of the shared authentication data used by the server, the shared authentication data being the same for both the second and third terminals;

providing the chat space to the first terminal, and the second service of the chat space and the first service to the second and third terminals designated to be distributed by the first

terminal, the second service of the chat space and the first service being provided to the second and third terminals simultaneously upon authentication, via actuation of the hyperlink in accordance with the scheduling information of the distribution notice, the providing unit delivering simultaneous access to the second service of the chat space and the first service upon authentication of the shared authentication data at the information processing apparatus.

Claim 7: The information processing apparatus according to Claim 1,
wherein the first service is a service for only distributing multimedia contents unidirectionally from a first terminal to the second and third terminals in real time.

Claim 8: The information processing apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the multimedia contents are video contents.

IX. EVIDENCE APPENDIX

None.

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Appeal Brief filed herewith

X. RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

None.